

**MINNESOTA GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL
ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Wednesday, April 5, 2017
12:20 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.
Continuing Education and Conference Center
University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus
1890 Buford Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ashley Bailey, Vice Chair
Michelle Albeck
Marrie Bottelson
Emilie Breit
Mary Hauff
Pamela Hoopes
David R. Johnson
Kate Onyeneho
Carolyn Perron
David Quilleash
Bonnie Jean Smith
Mike Stern
Kathy Ware

STAFF PRESENT

Colleen Wieck
Mary Jo Nichols

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Senator John Hoffman
Alex Bartolic
Eric Kloos
Jim Lovold
Lynne Megan
Mary Raasch
Jacqueline Rightler
Alan Wilsensky

MEMBER ABSENT

Linda Simenstad

GUESTS

Laurie Beyer-Kropuenske, Department of
Administration
Mary Kay Kennedy, Advocating Change
Together, Inc.
Steve Larson, The Arc Minnesota
Donna McNamara, Advocating Change
Together, Inc. consultant
Nancy Miller, Metropolitan State University

GUESTS, cont'd.

Derek Pearson, MarketResponse International
Tom Pearson, MarketResponse International
Lynn Schreifels, MarketResponse International

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ashley Bailey, Council Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 12:20 p.m.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Everyone present introduced him/herself.

COUNCIL PROGRAM

Colleen Wieck introduced today's program.

In 1962, a survey was completed for The Arc Minnesota and the Department of Public Welfare about the attitudes of Minnesotans regarding developmental disabilities. This was a general population survey and 900 personal interviews were conducted.

In 2007, MarketResponse International conducted a similar study to measure attitudinal changes of the general population in Minnesota during the past 45 years. The results showed a significant positive shift in attitudes.

In 2012, the survey was repeated and results showed that, over 50 years, attitudes had changed substantially.

In anticipation of this year's post-55 year survey, Partners graduates and subject matter experts were consulted. If they could ask any questions of the general population to learn about further changes or shifts, what would those be? This year's survey takes into account those questions as well as questions that reflected 21st Century thinking.

The survey respondents represented Minnesota's demographic profile. However, with some Olmstead funding, a supplemental survey will also be conducted to reach racial and ethnic communities so their opinions are included to a greater extent than as just a segment of the general population.

Tom Pearson, MarketResponse International, said the detailed findings of this year's survey will be presented in three parts and cover current awareness and attitudes towards people with developmental disabilities, trends we're seeing over time, and the importance of government services.

A total of 1,001 individuals responded to this year's survey. In terms of geographic representation across the seven census regions in the state, there was a good match with the general population as well as with racial and ethnic communities. The demographic profile was very similar to the 2007 survey.

Pearson then presented highlights of each part of the survey:

1 Regarding awareness and attitudes towards people with developmental disabilities:

A total of 71% of respondents knew someone they thought had a developmental disability but only 26% were very familiar with the term.

More than 60% of respondents had strong favorable opinions about quality of life issues. They disagreed strongly that they would be concerned if someone with a developmental disability moved into their neighborhood or that only little assistance should be provided to individuals with developmental disabilities.

There was strong agreement (90%) about statements related to Independence, Productivity, Self Determination, and Integration and Inclusion (IPSII) (inclusion in public places, community involvement, assistance to individuals who are vulnerable, education and training for productive employment).

Negative statements related to IPSII received mixed agree and disagree responses (making major life decisions, living on their own, excluded from public places, level of assistance provided).

This was also true in part with attitudinal statements about voting, drinking, school inclusion, level of assistance and services, and having children.

Where fairly high percentages of respondents neither agreed nor disagreed but were neutral, the results suggest that these opinions could be influenced either way.

Respondents also strongly disagreed with negative statements about the Americans with Disabilities Act and society's overall support for individuals with developmental disabilities (requirements too costly, too much taxpayer money spent, shouldn't be given "preferential" treatment).

2 Regarding trends over time:

Pearson said that from 2007 – 2012, overall attitudes were very stable.

From 2012-2017, there's a 10% positive shift regarding voting rights. However, there's less certainty about people with developmental disabilities being included as much as possible; about businesses directly employing individuals with developmental disabilities; the level of assistance provided so they can live to their highest potential; and that, with the right training and education, they can be productive workers.

There's also greater uncertainty about people with developmental disabilities living on their own; and a significant decrease about society doing everything possible for individuals who are most vulnerable and providing assistance to parents with children with developmental disabilities (in terms of services provided and taxpayer dollars invested).

3 Regarding the importance of government services:

There seems to be a clear relationship between familiarity with developmental disabilities and the importance of various services. Statements regarding health care were rated the highest. Statements regarding early childhood special education, special education, and transition services also received high importance ratings. Employment services (job placements that match individual interests and skills, internships and apprenticeships, vocational counseling, and employer training) and abuse prevention were also rated highly.

In terms of overall government performance, 79% of respondents gave a fair to good performance rating.

Respondents were shown three additional statements at the end of the survey, all of which have fiscal implications and affect tax payer spending. These statements related to housing supports, (direct supports that make it possible for individuals with developmental disabilities to live in their own homes and choose their providers), abuse

Investigations, and compensation for home health care workers.

In conclusion, Pearson said that survey results show that knowing someone with a developmental disability is definitely correlated with being more familiar with developmental disability issues, and that leads to stronger advocacy in the areas of health care, abuse prevention, education, transportation, and employment services.

MarketResponse International was thanked for their presentation of the general population survey results. The result of the supplemental survey are tentatively scheduled for the June meeting.

The Council's business meeting resumed.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Bailey asked for approval of the Agenda.

MOTION: Smith moved, seconded by Quilleash to approve the Agenda. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 1, 2017

Bailey asked for approval of the Minutes as written for February 1, 2017.

MOTION: Perron moved, seconded by Ware to approve the Minutes as written for February 1, 2017. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes.

V. CHAIR'S REPORT

In the absence of Senator Hoffman, there was no Chair's report.

VI. GRANT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Smith reported on the results of the evaluation of proposal received for two Self Advocacy projects and Quality Improvement. Members were reminded about the Conflict of Interest Policy. For members who may have a conflict with the organization being recommended for funding, they should not sign the Conflict of Interest Form and have to abstain from voting on that particular proposal.

MOTION: Smith moved on behalf of the Grant Review Committee to approve the proposal submitted by Advocating Change Together, Inc. for \$100,000 for "Strengthening Self Advocacy in Minnesota through a Statewide Coordinating Effort." Stern seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

MOTION: Smith moved on behalf of the Grant Review Committee to approve the proposal submitted by Merrick, Inc. for \$20,000 for "Strengthening Self Advocacy in Minnesota: Anti-Bullying Campaign." Stern seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

MOTION: Smith moved on behalf of the Grant Review Committee to approve the proposal submitted by Quality Culture Institute for \$20,000 for "Quality Improvement." Onyeneho seconded. Motion carried; there were no dissenting votes or abstentions.

VII. PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

Ware reported that the Evaluation report for Home and Community Based Services was presented by the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA). The Report focused on how and where funds are spent for home and community based services. Recommendations were made regarding services available (different terms are used for similar services across the waivers) and the waiver system overall.

Perron noted that the OLA recognized that the system is complex. Many people don't understand or know about the many choices that they may have.

VIII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Colleen Wieck provided the following updates and highlights from monthly reports:

1. To date, we have received partial allocations totaling \$ 586,086 for FFY 2017. This represents more than half of the federal allocation received last year; allocations are being closely watched.

2. State matching funds of \$ 74,000 are included in both House and Senate appropriation bills at this time. Olmstead funding of \$ 148,000 is in the House bill for SFYs 2018 and 2019 but in the Senate bill for SFY 2018 only.
3. Legacy funding of \$ 55,000 to build on the With An Eye to the Past web section has been requested. Laurie Beyer-Kropuenske reported on the hearing.

Wieck added that self advocates in Southwest Minnesota sent postcards to Representative Gunther, Chair of the Legacy Funding Finance Committee, in support of the Council's request.

4. A meeting is scheduled with the Governor's Office on April 6, 2017 regarding appointments. Eight Council members are eligible for reappointment; 11 new appointments need to be made.
5. Council comments were submitted for Olmstead Plan amendments but not all were included in the revised Plan. Quarterly reports have been submitted and a status conference was held on March 24, 2017.
6. Semi-annual and annual reports regarding the Jensen Settlement Agreement have been submitted to the Court.
7. Robins Kaplan LLP sponsored a Disability Justice CLE on March 30, 2017, "Abuse and Neglect of Individuals with Disabilities;" both the Henry's Turkey Farm case in Atalissa, Iowa and the Wenigar pig farm case in Isanti, Minnesota were discussed.

On April 4, 2017, the University of Minnesota Law School sponsored a CLE, "Sex Trafficking of People with Disabilities." Sarah Bessell with the Human Trafficking Pro Bono Legal Center in Washington, D.C. is a national expert on this topic and was one of the panel members. John Choi, Ramsey County District Attorney also served on the panel; he has become a state and national leader in prosecuting sex trafficking crimes.

A video interview was conducted with Sarah Bessell following the CLE; this will be posted on the Council website. We learned of her and her work on this issue through connections with the University of St. Thomas Law School and the Disability Justice website.

A CLE is also scheduled with the Attorney General's Office on May 9, 2017, "Justice for Victims with Disabilities; Jim Backstrom, Dakota County District Attorney will be presenting.

- 8 On Saturday, May 30, 2017, we will celebrate the graduation of Partners in Policymaking® Class 34 and the 30th Anniversary of the Partners program. Participants from this Partners class testified at Senator Abeler's Human Services Finance and Policy Committee on reducing parental fees

IX ADJOURNMENT

Bailey asked that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Wieck
Executive Director